

Buffalo County Minutes

Committee/Board: Health and Human Services and Veterans Service Committee

Date of Meeting: Tuesday, January 5, 2021

Electronic and Hard Copy Filing Date:

Location: Department of Health and Human Services
Buffalo County Courthouse
2nd Floor Conference Room
407 S 2nd Street, Alma, Wisconsin

1. ROLL CALL/BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Roll call was taken. Members present were Larry Grisen, Wendy Kleinschmidt, Carol McDonough, Mary Anne McMillan-Urell, and Steve Nelson. Richard Mueller and Brad Schmidt knecht were excused absences. Joette Gillett has resigned due to a work conflict.

OTHERS PRESENT FOR ALL OR PART OF THE MEETING

Dave Rynders, Felicia Hager, Mary Hildebrand. Mickey Rice attended via ZOOM.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT REGARDING ANY MATTERS THAT WILL BE TAKEN UP BY THE COMMITTEE AT THIS MEETING

None

3. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

A motion was made by Mr. Grisen and seconded by Ms. Kleinschmidt to approve the December 1, 2020 minutes as presented. Motion approved.

4. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – VETERANS SERVICES MONTHLY REPORT

Ms. Hager reported six purple heart gift cards were donated by the Auxiliary for needy Veterans in the area. Vernon Langhorst, a committee member that consults with Ms. Hager on areas of higher actions has agreed to stay on the committee. The grant application for 2021 funding is in order. The monthly stats were reviewed. Ms. Hager also shared Mr. Steve Schiffli has joined the Veterans Services office part-time.

5. VETERANS SERVICES MONTHLY VOUCHERS

Ms. Hager presented the monthly vouchers noting the cell phone dollar entry is not accurate but will be corrected. A motion was made by Ms. McDonough and seconded by Mr. Nelson to approve the monthly vouchers as presented. Motion approved.

6. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – PUBLIC HEALTH UNIT REPORT

Ms. Rice presented the monthly case/investigation numbers highlighting the 220 confirmed COVID-19 cases and 184 contact investigations from November 21, 2020 to December 20, 2020. Buffalo County Public Health is completing the enrollment process to participate in the

COVID-19 vaccination program. The department does not have the capacity to vaccinate during phase 1A but is working to ensure all those covered in phase 1A will have access to the COVID-19 vaccine. Ms. Rice also informed the committee they are working on plans for phase 1B to provide vaccines for people in that category. Buffalo County Health Department has entered a MOU with Pepin County Health Department, Advent Health, and the Mondovi, Pepin, and Alma Schools for on-site group testing in the event of an outbreak.

Ms. Rice reported on the Botvin Life Skills program which is a substance abuse, mental health, and violence prevention program which was implemented this past fall in schools to over 150 students in the third and fourth grades. The Alma High School students and 3 staff members completed the SOS (Signs of Suicide) training.

Ms. Rice noted the Public Health Officer and the WIC Coordinator have both vacated their positions, so staff are focusing on reassigning duties and coverage of the vacant positions.

Ms. McMillan inquired on the type of metal poisoning that was reported on the monthly case reports. Ms. Rice will investigate and report back.

Mr. Rynders reiterated that phase 1A vaccines are taking place and that our Public Health department though approved to vaccinate will be starting with the phase 1B group. Mr. Rynders shared an update on the current status of the resolutions that were approved last month for funding for three LTE positions through 2021. In an abrupt DHS funding change, funds were pulled from the Public Health system; as of now, there is no contract in place with the State. Mr. Rynders shared a spreadsheet he received from the State with estimated allocations for each county through June 2021. The estimated allocation for Buffalo County is \$112,700 which is enough to cover all the costs of the LTE's for the first half of 2021. A letter was shared by Mr. Rynders he received from the State certifying Buffalo County Public Health as a Level II Public Health department.

7. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING AND HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF JANICE PRIEFERT

Mr. Rynders presented a resolution recognizing and honoring the retirement of Jan Priefert after 28 years of service with Buffalo County DHHS. Mr. Nelson commented to the Committee, having worked with Thrivent for 20 years, referred clients to Jan who always put the interests of the client above anyone else in any County. Mr. Nelson made a motion and Ms. Kleinschmidt seconded it to approve the resolution recognizing and honoring the retirement of Janice Priefert. Motion approved forwarding it onto the County Board.

8. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF INCREASED COUNTY CHILD SUPPORT FUNDING

Mr. Rynders presented a resolution in support of increasing State funding for County Child Support agencies by \$4 million GPR (General Program Revenue) in each fiscal year of the 2021-23 Wisconsin State budget. Ms. McMillan-Urell made a motion and Mr. Grisen seconded the motion to approve the resolution in support of increased County Child Support funding.

Mr. Grisen asked for clarification that this has no impact on the County budget; Mr. Rynders assured the committee this has no fiscal impact on the County budget. Mr. Grisen also pointed out at the top of the resolution the Fiscal Impact: was marked YES. After discussion, a motion was made by Ms. McMillan-Urell and seconded by Mr. Grisen to amend the resolution to change the Fiscal Impact: from YES to NO clarifying the resolution does not have a fiscal impact on Buffalo County if the amount is increased. Motion approved.

A motion was made by Ms. McMillan-Urell and seconded by Mr. Grisen to approve the amended resolution, changing the Fiscal Impact wording from YES to NO. Motion Approved.

9. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – DHHS FINANCIAL UPDATE

Mr. Rynders presented the financial update through November 2020 noting the purchased/contracted services are at 85% where more expenses will be incurred as well as more revenue by year end.

10. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – DHHS MONTHLY VOUCHERS

The vouchers were presented Mr. Rynders. A motion was made by Mr. Grisen and seconded by Ms. Kleinschmidt to approve the vouchers as presented. Motion approved.

11. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – MONTHLY UNIT REPORTS

The monthly unit reports were reviewed and discussed.

12. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – WESTERN DAIRYLAND COMMUNITY ACTION

Mr. Nelson reported the Western Dairyland Community Action committee did not meet in the month of December.

13. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – DHHS DIRECTOR

Mr. Rynders reported on the two vacancies on the committee and expressed on behalf of Ms. Gillett her appreciation serving on this committee. Ms. Gillett also recommended someone as a possible referral; Mr. Rynders is gathering more information on the referral. Ms. McMillan-Urell inquired on when interviews will take place for the Health Officer position. Mr. Rynders shared the regional office has agreed to be part of the interview team along with the Public Health staff meeting with the candidates.

14. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT

Ms. McMillan-Urell suggested changing the committee meeting dates that fall on election days. After discussion, it was decided to change the Tuesday, April 6th meeting to Monday, April 5, 2021 and the Tuesday, November 2nd meeting to Wednesday, November 3, 2021. Mr. Rynders will send out a calendar with the meetings dates and changes.

15. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – CLOSED SESSION TO CONDUCT EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATIONS

Roll Call Vote. *The Committee may enter closed session pursuant to WI State Statutes 19.85 (1)(c) for the purpose of considering employment or performance evaluation of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility.*

A motion was made by Ms. McMillan-Urell and seconded by Mr. Grisen to go into closed session to conduct employee performance evaluations for Ms. Hager and Mr. Rynders. A roll call vote was taken to go into closed session.

16. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – THE COMMITTEE MAY RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

A motion was made by Ms. McMillan-Urell and seconded by Mr. Grisen to return to open session. A roll call vote was taken.

17. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting date is scheduled for Tuesday, February 2, 2021 at 6:00 PM.

18. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

19. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Hildebrand